

- (ii) Fish plated joints are being replaced with welded joints wherever feasible.
- (iii) Steel/Wooden sleepers are being replaced with concrete sleepers.
- (iv) More and more track is being brought under mechanised maintenance gradually.
- (v) Quality of rails have been improved.
- (vi) In service testing of rails through ultrasonic flaw detecting machine is being done to detect the defects in rail before they grow to failure size.

Improvement in Signalling system are being carried out by means of following:

- (i) Replacement of Overaged Signalling assets by Centralised operation of points and signals (more than 2200 stations provided so far).
- (ii) Track circuiting (completed from Fouling Mark to Fouling Mark at all stations on A, B, C, D spl & D routes where trains run at a speed 75 kmph).

Doubling of Samastipur-Gorakhpur Broad Gauge Rail Line

† 350. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal to double the broad gauge line between Samastipur in Bihar and Gorakhpur is under consideration of Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Double line already exists between Muzaffarpur and Siho and between Samastipur and Karpurigram. Between Gorakhpur and Muzaffarpur 2 lines exist

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

one via Chhapra and other via Narkatiaganj. These 2 lines together serve the purpose of doubling between these points. The patch doubling of Karpurigram-Siho has been sanctioned. Tenders for earthwork for Karpurigram-Siho have been invited. Work will be completed as per availability of resources in the coming years.

Gauge conversion of the MG line between Hajipur and Chhapra has also been sanctioned which when completed would also double the existing single line between these 2 points and would add to the capacity of the section.

Running of Rajdhani Express Through Muzaffarpur

† 351. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the demand to run Rajdhani Express through Muzaffarpur and also to provide for its halt there; and

(b) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion Projects in Assam

352. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending Railway projects for conversion of keter-gauge into broad-gauge in Assam promised in the last year's Railway Budget;

(b) the progress made so far in implementation of the projects in each case;

(c) the funds sanctioned for each of the projects and money actually released and spent thereon; and

(d) the reasons, if any, for delay in completion of the projects?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.